



Saint Peter Evangelical Lutheran Church

Hopewell Township, N.J.

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Rev. Jon Dunbar, Pastor (402) 641-4813

Chris Fusco, Music Director

Jennifer Garrow, Nursery School Director

Amy Van Hise, Office Admin

Tenth Sunday after Pentecost

August 17, 2025

Our mission:

*to spread the Word of Salvation through Christ,
honor God, serve others*

Welcome! Sometimes the Word of the Lord falls on us “like fire ... and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces” (Jer. 23:29). His Law pricks our consciences; only His Gospel can give us relief. We see God's Word fulfilled at the foot of Christ's cross and in the empty tomb that proclaimed His resurrection from the dead. Knowing that Jesus has conquered death and obtained life everlasting for us, we find the strength (and even more the joy) of spiritual endurance. So let us fix our eyes on him, “the founder and perfecter of our faith”. (Heb 12)

Welcome guests! We are delighted you are with us for worship this morning. Please introduce yourself to Pastor Jon and fill out a green visitor card (in the pewback). The order of service is printed in this bulletin starting on page 2. A cryroom is available at the back left of the sanctuary for families with young children if there is a need.

Communion Note: We believe that our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us. Because unworthy reception of the sacrament can be harmful, those who are not yet instructed, are uncertain or doubtful, or hold to a different confession should speak to the Pastor before participating.

Divine Service, Setting Three
LSB page 184

The Preparation



Prelude: “Gavotte” – M. Camidge

Words of Welcome

Invocation, Confession and Absolution page 184

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God, our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

C: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

(Silence for reflection on God’s Word and for self-examination.)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Hymn: 905 Come, Thou Almighty King

Kyrie page 186 (*sung*)

**C: Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

Hymn of Praise: Gloria in Excelsis page 187 (*sung*)

P: Glory be to God on high:

C: and on earth peace, good will toward men.

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.**

O Lord God, heav'nly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Service of the Word

Prayer of the Day page 189

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Let us pray.

Merciful Lord,

cleanse and defend Your Church by the sacrifice of Christ.

United with Him in Holy Baptism,

give us grace to receive with thanksgiving the fruits of His redeeming work
and daily follow in His way;

through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord,
who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 23:16-29 (see back cover)

Psalm: Psalm 119:81-88



⁸¹ My soul longs for your sal- | vation;*
I hope | in your word.
⁸² My eyes long for your | promise;*
I ask, “When will you | comfort me?”
⁸³ For I have become like a wineskin | in
the smoke.*
yet I have not forgotten your | statutes.
⁸⁴ How long must your ser- | vant endure?*
When will you judge those who
perse- | cute me?
⁸⁵ The insolent have dug pit- | falls for me;*
they do not live according | to your
law.

⁸⁶ All your command- | ments are sure;*
they persecute me with
falsehood; | help me!
⁸⁷ They have almost made an end of me | on
earth,*
but I have not forsaken your | precepts.
⁸⁸ In your steadfast love | give me life,*
that I may keep the testimonies | of
your mouth.
**Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*
and to the Holy | Spirit;
as it was in the be- | ginning,*
is now, and will be forever. | Amen.**

Epistle Reading: Hebrews 11:17-31; 12:1-3 (see back cover)

Triple Alleluia page 190 (*sung before and after the Verse of the Day*)

C: Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!

*Verse of the Day (Cantor): Is not my word like fire, de- / clares the LORD?**
What has straw in common / with wheat? (Jer 23:29a, 28b)

Gospel Reading:

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 12th chapter.

C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Luke 12:49-53 (see back cover)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

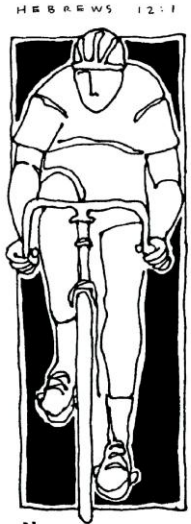
C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Nicene Creed (page 191 or the inside back cover of the hymnal)

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of the Day: 655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

Sermon



...with perseverance
the race
that is set
before us

Prayer Response after each petition P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

Prayer Request List (Names are placed on the list by request only.)

For those in need of comfort:

Myers family	death of Mary	Teschke
Hayes family	death of Bob	Teschke
Henderson family	death of Peggy	deDufour
Lemp family	death of Josh	Van Hise
Cousins/Weiland/McAllister families	death of James	McAllister

For those with health concerns:

Tom Dorsett	Sandy Hammond	Carla Behnfeldt	Greg	Sid
Hank Van Beuzekom	Bill Akers	Lolly Hoagland	Noah	Susan
Fran Byrzkinsky	Pete Serone	John Tarlo	Grant	Chris
Claudia Zucker	John O'Neil	Claire Haenisch	Adel	Rose
Gordon Anderson	Marge Keen	Catie Lauricella	Claire	Beverly
George DiCostanzo	Freda Potts	Rick Wright	Barbara	Mary
Katherine Eccleston	Kay Compton	Ursula Chirico	Zane	Joanne
Linda Wright	Pat Dietz	Phil Unetic	Anna	JoAnne
Kay Compton	Janice Nuneviller	Mary Cobriere	Irene	Kristin
Monica Benesch	Drew Klesat	Tony Shiron	Brennan	

For those with cancer:

Keith Watson	Aaron Kline	Terry Dunbar	Tom Sullivan	Trudy
Rich Knechel	Karen Shevchuk	Gerry Campbell	Howard Zahn	Lance
Carol Tezla	Steve Saumsiegle	Brad Hoppe	Mary Anne	Linda
Kim McCollough	Nancy Gilliand	Aunt Jean	Jason	Jerry
Andrea(Andy) Hoteling	Kaleigh Moore	Sally Ashmen	Dora	Lynn
Rich deDufour	Logan Mattessich	Frank Cignus	Doris	Dawn
Jane Fry	Frumi C	Judy Bacorn	Barbara	Joe
Joan Rawls	Rosalie Reinbacher	Dave Bond	Dana	

For those serving in the armed forces:

LJ Lupinacci	Carrick Porter	Emily Arndt	Jake Grube	Jim Buckman
Daniel Gewecke	James Bannon	Harper Usiskin	Jesse Sowell	Mike Bahney

For those with needs around the world:

Persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ	For protection, strength, comfort, spread of Gospel
Government officials and people of our nation	For peace, unity, safety, and wisdom
Those coping with disasters/flooding	For provision and help
Those in need of employment	For provision of jobs
Wars in Europe and Middle East	For peace, forgiveness, and guidance
Family of Olga Nichols living in Ukraine	For health, safety, and provision
Those who are traveling	For safety and provision

For St. Peter Lutheran Nursery School:

For staff and families

for '25-'26 school year enrollment

Birthdays:

Janet Reside O'Connor August 22

John deDufour August 23

Cheryl Gewecke August 23

Anniversaries:

Tim and Allison Fog August 17

Steve and Cheryl Gewecke August 20

Gathering of the Offering and Offertory

Instrumental Offertory: "Komm heiliger Geist" – G. Bohm

Congregational Offertory: Create In Me page 192 -193 (*sung*)

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.

The Service of the Sacrament

Order of Holy Communion page 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord our God

C: It is meet and right so to do.

P: It is truly meet, right and salutary....evermore praising You and saying:

C: (*sung*) Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

C: (*spoken*) Our Father who art in heaven...

Words of Institution (Consecration)

Pax Domini

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace (please greet one another with the words: "The peace of the Lord be with you.",
responding "And also with you.")

Agnus Dei page 198 *(sung)*

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.

Distribution Hymn: 621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Post Communion Canticle: Nunc Dimittis page 199 *(sung)*

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy Word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving page 200

P: Oh, give thanks unto the Lord for He is good, C: **and His mercy endureth forever.**

P: (Prayer of Thanksgiving) C: **Amen.**

Salutation and Benedicamus page 201

P: The Lord be with you. C: **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Benediction page 202

P: The Lord bless you... C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: 718 Jesus, Lead Thou On

Announcements

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace! Serve the LORD!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude: "Trumpet Tune" - J. Bennett





IS NOT MY
WORD LIKE
FIRE?

Jeremiah 23:29



Announcements – Week of August 17, 2025

Need assistance? The Church Office is staffed each week

MON, TUES and WED from 1:00 - 3:00

Worship, Sunday School, and Bible Study

Welcome! Serving in worship today are: Fred Grube (Communion Assistant and Reader), Juliet Behnfeldt (Acolyte), Dave deDufour and Joe Gallagher (Ushers), Lesley deDufour (Live-streaming), Hope Dunbar and Lesley deDufour (Communion and coffee set-up and clean-up).

Today's service will be live streamed on You Tube at the following link:

<https://youtube.com/live/GloDKg9IjU8> If you miss the service live, watch it whenever you like! The

Bible studies and Sunday School on break for the summer. Wednesday and Sunday morning bible studies and children's Sunday School are on break now through the month of August. You're encouraged to continue growing in God's Word by using Portals of Prayer or another favorite devotional.

A Study of The Epistle of 1 John - NEW on Wednesdays via ZOOM. Join us on Wednesdays at 7:30pm -- starting **September 3rd** -- as we read together 1 John. We'll discuss its main themes which include the perennial newness of Christ's "old" command to love one another, the source of a Christian's assurance of salvation, and the distinction between genuine and spurious faith. Look for an email with the Zoom link that will be sent out one week prior to our start date, or ask Pastor Jon to add you to his current email list.

Weekly Schedule:

MONDAY (8/18)	5:30p Planning Council Meeting
THURSDAY (8/19)	5:00p Elders Meeting
SUNDAY (8/24)	9:30a Worship; 11:00a Discussion Group

Men's, Women's, Senior's, Youth and Family Ministry

JOIN US AT THE ANNUAL ST. PETER PICNIC ON SEPTEMBER 7. Yes, our annual picnic will take place following the service on Sunday, September 7. Sign up to bring specific needs (see list on the bulletin board) or just bring a side dish or dessert. It promises to be lots of fun - hope to see you there!

Back-to-School Blessing for Teachers and Students. Join us on Sunday, September 7th during our 9:30 service for a special Blessing of the Backpacks! As the new school year gets under way, we invite all students, teachers, and school staff to bring their backpacks, briefcases, or school bags to be blessed. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray for God's protection, guidance and wisdom over all who are returning to school. Let's lift up our students and educators as they embark on another year of learning and growth!

Prayer Chain. The Prayer Chain is ready to receive your prayer requests. Simply call Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928 to start or update a prayer.

New Jersey March for Life - September 25. On Thursday, September 25 you have the opportunity to show your support for parents, children and God's love for life at every stage by attending the New Jersey March for Life at the state capitol in Trenton. The event runs from 11:00am to around 1pm. Parking will be difficult, so participants are strongly encouraged to use public transportation. Pastor Jon welcomes you to carpool with him to Messiah, Princeton where we will meet up with a group from our Lutheran partner churches and ride the bus into Trenton. We did this last year, and it worked very well!

The Prayer Shawl/Lap Blanket Ministry. Join us in making special blankets to bless those in need of comfort or in celebration of a life event! Please speak with Barbara Greenberg at (609) 512-1928.

Service and Other

Lambertville Food Pantry. Please grab some non-perishable items at the grocery store to add to our food pantry collection box in the narthex. August's theme is *fruit, juices, and condiments*: canned fruits, fruit juices, mayo, mustard, ketchup, canned tuna, lunch bag items.

Faithfulness Report:

Attendance 8/10: 42/ 7 online

Gen Fund (plate and elec): \$2255

Debt relief: \$25

Flowers. If you would like to have flowers placed on the altar in honor of someone, in thanksgiving for God's grace, or for a special occasion, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to do so. Suggested donation is \$25. You may take the flowers home following the service on the day you select.

Flowers are placed on the altar today in honor of Patricia Scalese's birthday (Chris Fusco's wife).

Website and Facebook. Come online to check us out! Our website is at www.stpeternj.org, and our Facebook page is Saint Peter Lutheran Church – the link is: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Saint-Peter-Lutheran-Church/337705479662612> .

St. Peter YouTube Channel. Increase St. Peter's online visibility by liking and subscribing to our YouTube channel (where we live-stream and record our worship services and Wednesday Zoom bible studies. It is linked to our church website, or go to YouTube and search "Saint Peter Lutheran Church".

Important web links:

The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod lcms.org

NJ District LCMS njdistrict.org

LCMS World Relief and Human Care lcms.org/ca/worldrelief

The "Lutheran Hour" Broadcast lhm.org



TENTH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST

Old Testament Reading:

Jeremiah 23:16–29

¹⁶Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who prophesy to you, filling you with vain hopes. They speak visions of their own minds, not from the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷They say continually to those who despise the word of the LORD, 'It shall be well with you'; and to everyone who stubbornly follows his own heart, they say, 'No disaster shall come upon you.'"

¹⁸For who among them has stood in the council of the LORD to see and to hear his word, or who has paid attention to his word and listened?

¹⁹Behold, the storm of the LORD! Wrath has gone forth, a whirling tempest; it will burst upon the head of the wicked.

²⁰The anger of the LORD will not turn back until he has executed and accomplished the intents of his heart.

In the latter days you will understand it clearly.

²¹"I did not send the prophets, yet they ran; I did not speak to them, yet they prophesied.

²²But if they had stood in my council, then they would have proclaimed my words to my people, and they would have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their deeds.

²³"Am I a God at hand, declares the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴Can a man hide himself in secret places so that I cannot see him? declares the LORD. Do I not fill heaven and earth? declares the LORD. ²⁵I have heard what the prophets have said who prophesy lies in my name, saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed!' ²⁶How long shall there be lies in the heart of the prophets who prophesy lies, and who prophesy the deceit of their own heart, ²⁷who think to make my people forget my name by their dreams that they tell one another, even as their fathers forgot my name for Baal? ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream tell the dream, but let him who has my word speak my word faithfully. What has straw in common with wheat? declares the LORD. ²⁹Is not my word like fire, declares the LORD, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?"

Epistle: Hebrews 11:17–31; 12:1–3

¹⁷By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac, and he who had received the promises was in the act of offering up his only son, ¹⁸of whom it was said, "Through Isaac shall

your offspring be named." ¹⁹He considered that God was able even to raise him from the dead, from which, figuratively speaking, he did receive him back. ²⁰By faith Isaac invoked future blessings on Jacob and Esau. ²¹By faith Jacob, when dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, bowing in worship over the head of his staff. ²²By faith Joseph, at the end of his life, made mention of the exodus of the Israelites and gave directions concerning his bones.

²³By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents, because they saw that the child was beautiful, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. ²⁴By faith Moses, when he was grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter, ²⁵choosing rather to be mistreated with the people of God than to enjoy the fleeting pleasures of sin. ²⁶He considered the reproach of Christ greater wealth than the treasures of Egypt, for he was looking to the reward. ²⁷By faith he left Egypt, not being afraid of the anger of the king, for he endured as seeing him who is invisible. ²⁸By faith he kept the Passover and sprinkled the blood, so that the Destroyer of the firstborn might not touch them.

²⁹By faith the people crossed the Red Sea as if on dry land, but the Egyptians, when they attempted to do the same, were drowned. ³⁰By faith the walls of Jericho fell down after they had been encircled for seven days. ³¹By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies. . . .

^{12:1}Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, ²looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

³Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted.

Holy Gospel: Luke 12:49–53

⁴⁹[Jesus said:] "I came to cast fire on the earth, and would that it were already kindled! ⁵⁰I have a baptism to be baptized with, and how great is my distress until it is accomplished! ⁵¹Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division. ⁵²For from now on in one house there will be five divided, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law."